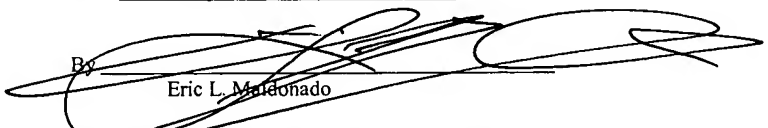




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Eric L. Maldonado

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Attorney Docket No. SCES 19.360 (100809-00163)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: Makoto TANAKA, et al.
Serial No.: 10/057,757
Filed: January 25, 2002
Title: INFORMATION STORAGE MEDIUM...
Examiner:
Art Unit: 2131
Con. No.: 9537

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May 5, 2004

Director of the U.S. Patent and
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

S I R:

In order to comply with discretionary rules 37 CFR §§1.97 and 1.98, attached hereto is a copy of Form PTO-1449 and a copy of the document listed thereon. This document contains information in which the Examiner may consider to be important in deciding whether to issue a patent in the instant application.

As this statement is being filed prior to issuance of a first Office Action, no fee is due.

Also attached is a copy of a Japanese Office Action dated February 17, 2004. Such Office Action cited eight documents. Five of such documents, namely JP 08-212681, WO 96/7256 (corresponds to EP Patent no. 0727894), JP 2000-306001, JP 2000-260903 (corresponds to JP2002-73396) and JP 2000-231486 were cited in two separate IDS's previously submitted on

June 17, 2002 & July 10, 2003. All of the documents listed in the Japanese Office Action, except for the background reference entitled "Encryption Theory" appear in the Form PTO-1449.

For documents written in a language other than English, English language abstracts are annexed thereto explaining relevancy in accordance with 37 CFR §1.98 (a)(3).

Each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted in compliance with 37 §CFR 1.56 as an Examiner might consider any cited document important in deciding whether to allow the application to issue as a patent, but the citation of each document is not to be construed as an admission that such document is necessarily relevant or prior art. No representation is intended that the cited documents represent the results of a complete search, and it is anticipated that the Examiner in the normal course of examination, will make an independent search and will determine the best prior art consistent with 37 CFR 1.104 (a), and in the course of such search will review for relevance every document cited on the attached form even if not initialed.

Early and favorable consideration is respectfully solicited.

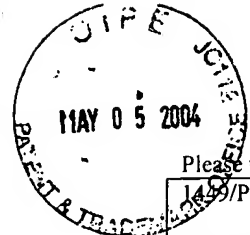
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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "TJ Bean", written over a horizontal line.

Thomas J Bean
Reg. No. 44,528

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Docket No.: SCES 19.360(100809-00163)



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1459/PTO

U.S. Department of Commerce
Patent and Trademark Office

Application No. : 10/057,757

Filing Date : January 25, 2002

First Named Inventor: M. TANAKA

Group Art Unit : 2131

Examiner Name :

Attorney Docket No. : SCES 19.360

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

Sheet 1 of 1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document	Kind Code if known ²	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD- YYYY	Pages, Columns Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear

FOREIGN DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document Office ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)	Country	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD- YY/Y	Pages, Columns Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		09-034841	JP	FUJITSU LTD	02/07/1997	
		11-073725	JP	SONY CORP	03/16/1999	

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Other Prior Art-Non Patent Literature Documents

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Examiner Signature		Date Considered	

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¹Unique citation designation number. ²See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³Enter Office that Issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.1⁶ if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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